



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

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Manufacturing American Jobs

By Congressman Ron Kind

With 2.8 million manufacturing jobs lost since 2001, more than 80,000 lost in Wisconsin alone, and no private sector jobs created last month, it is time that America has an economic plan that is more focused on creating jobs for hardworking Americans.

This situation calls for immediate action, and after recent tours to manufacturing plants and factories in western Wisconsin, I propose: healthcare cost relief for small businesses; the elimination of corporate loopholes that reward job-exporting firms; an extension of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to help manufacturers compete in the new economy; and Buy American provisions to standardize the purchase of American made goods in government contracts. I encourage the President to adopt policies such as these, so we can give American workers and businesses access to tools that help them compete in the global economy.

Last week, the President seemed close to making good on a promise he made six months ago to create an office to help America's struggling manufacturers. But the long-awaited appointment of the new manufacturing czar hit a stumbling block when the President's selection, Anthony Raimondo, chairman of a manufacturing company, drew criticism for outsourcing labor at the expense of American jobs. This was just the latest in a series of glitches highlighting the administration's misguided approach to jobs and the economy.

In February, the White House had to disavow its own estimate that 2.6 million jobs would be created this year. The same economic report, issued under Bush's signature, proclaimed that it is good for the economy to send jobs overseas.

I think this is the wrong policy. Too many companies around the country have had to close their doors, leaving workers unemployed with little hope of finding good, high-paying jobs. We need to do what we can to reverse this trend and move the country forward. Job creation is essential to the health and strength of our economy; and, despite boosted corporate earnings, Americans are worried about their economic security.

In the President's favor, the new manufacturing czar **would** have meant one more job created. But after a number of promises, Americans are still waiting for a meaningful jobs policy and waiting for a plan to create work for the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs over the last three years.

My plan would help American businesses keep and create quality jobs in the U.S. by making healthcare more affordable, providing incentives to invest in American workers, strengthening our labor force through education and job training and ensuring that our policies offer a future of economic security for all Americans. It's time the bleeding stopped, and I urge the President to join me, and my colleagues, in creating a bipartisan solution that prioritizes job growth and, more importantly, prioritizes American workers.

To view all of my proposals to energize the manufacturing sector and create U.S. jobs please visit the front page of my website at www.house.gov/kind.